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TAGS: PINS, RQ, DR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE ADVOCATES
REF A. SANTO DOMINGO 478, B. 79 SANTO DOMINGO 7966

1. SUMMARY. MILITANT ADVOCATES OF PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE OSCAR CALLAZO, RAFAEL CANCEL MIRANDA AND IRVING FLORES, WHO WERE SERVING LONG JAIL TERMS IN THE US FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES UNTIL PARDONED LAST YEAR BY PRESIDENT CARTER, VISITED THE DR FROM JAN 23-28. LOLITA LEBRON FAILED TO SHOW. THE VISITORS ADVOCATED ARMED STRUGGLE, IF NECESSARY, TO WIN PR INDEPENDENCE. BOTH THE GODR AND THE RULING PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO DOMINICANO (PRD) IGNORED THE VISIT, ALTHOUGH THE PRD HAD CONVINCED THE GOVERNMENT TO GRANT THE VISITORS VISAS, REVERSING A STANDING PROHIBITION ON THEIR ENTRY WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO VISIT LAST DECEMBER. THE PUERTO RICANS GAINED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY WHEN THEY ARRIVED, BUT COVERAGE OF THEIR ACTIVITIES GRAVITATED TO THE BACK PAGES OF THE DAILIES AS OTHER EVENTS, SUCH AS THE OUTBREAK OF A LABOR DISPUTE IN THREE SUGAR MILLS, CAPTURED THE HEADLINES. END SUMMARY

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2. THE ONLY EXPLANATION GIVEN FOR THE NO-SHOW OF LEBRON, THE MOST COLOFUL AND BEST KNOWN OF THE PARDONED TERRORISTS TO HAVE BEEN INVITED, WAS THAT SHE HAD MISSED THE PLANE IN PUERTO RICO. DESPITE THIS SMALL DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE, THE THREE OTHER GUESTS, WHO WERE ACCOMPANIED BY A NELSON CANALES AND A JOSE FORTUNA, RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME. THESE TWO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES, RESPECTIVELY, AS PRESIDENT AND MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE LIBERATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND AGAINST THE SUPPRESSION OF PUERTO RICO. THE HOSTS, A GROUP OF LEFTIST SPLINTERS (REF A) ORGANIZED BY THE LABOR CONFEDERATION CENTRAL GENERAL DE TRABAJADORES (CGT), ASSEMBLED A LARGE CROWD (ONE NEWPAPER CLAIMED A THOUSAND) TO RECEIVE THE VISITORS AT LAS AMERICAS AIRPORT. DESPITE CONFUSION AND MINOR VOCAL SCRIMMAGES AMONG MOSCOW LINE, PRO CHINESE, TROTSKYITE AND FIDELISTA GROUPS WHICH HAVE BEEN FIGHTING AMONG THEMSELVES FOR YEARS, THEY ALL

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UNITED TO CHEER "LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO" ONCE THE VISITORS STEPPED OFF THE PLANE.
3. AMONG THE MORE NOTABLE LEFT WING GREATERS WERE NARCISO ISA CONDE (DOMINICAN COMMUNIST PARTY - PCD), FRANKLIN FRANCO (PATRIOTIC ANTI IMPERIALIST UNION - UPA), JORGE "EL MEN" PUELLOS SORIANO (DOMINICAN POPULAR MOVEMENT-SOCIALIST TENDENCY AND/OR "POLITICAL PRISON" AMNESTIED IN 1978), AND CGT SECGEN FRANCISCO SANTOS. THE PRD'S YOUTH WING, THE DOMINICAN REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH, WAS ALSO REPRESENTED, THOUGH NOT BY ITS LEADERS. NOTABLY ABSENT AT THE AIRPORT, AND DURING THE ENTIRE STAY, WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARENT PRD. ONE NEWS REPORT DUBBED THE WELTER OF CONTRA-DICTORY SIGNS AND SLOGANS EMBLAZONING THE GROUPS' DIFFERING POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES "A WAR OF PLACEDARDS."
4. THE DAY FOLLOWING ARRIVAL THE PERTO RICANS HELD A PRESS CONFERECE IN CGT HEADQUARTERS AND RECEIVED AN EMOTIONAL RECEPTION
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AT THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF SANTO DOMINGO (UASD) FROM STUDENTS, A FORMER RECTOR, AND THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE VICE RECTOR (WHO WAS ROUNDLY BOOED BY THE STUDENTS).
5. AMONG THE MANY STATEMENTS MADE BY THE VISITORS, MAINLY SPEAKING THROUGH COLLAZO, THE FOLLOWING MAY BE OF INTEREST:
1). THE ONLY ROAD LEFT OPEN TO GENUINE ANTI IMPERIALISTS IS THAT OF ARMS, "ESPECIALLY IN PUERTO RICO." "THE ARMED PATH HAS LIBERATED OTHER NATIONS FROM THE DOMINION OF THE UNITED STATES." AT THE SAME TIME, THE TRIO WOULD NOT SAY IF ARMS ARE NOW BEING COLLECTED IN PUERTO RICO FOR THE "INDEPENDISTA" STRUGGLE.
2) A CAMPAIGN EXISTS IN PUERTO RICO TO DISCREDIT DOMINICAN LABORERS WHO GO THERE SIMPLY TO SUPPORT THEIR FAMILIES. THIS CAMPAIGN, HOWEVER, DOES NOT EXTEND TO OTHER LATIN AMERICANS, SUCH AS RICH CUBANS WHO COME TO INVEST MONEY.
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3) THE US IS A DANGER TO ALL LATIN AMERICA AS PROVEN BY THE USE OF VIEQUES ISLANDS AS A STAGING POINT FOR US TROOPS WHO INVADED THE DR IN 1965. THEY ADDED THAT PUERTO RICAN FISHERMEN ARE IN CONSTANT DANGER OF BEING INJURED OR KILLED IN EXPLOSIONS CAUSED BY US NAVAL WEAPONS TESTS ON VIEQUES.
4) THE PERIODIC ELECTIONS HELD ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS OF PUERTO RICO ARE FRAUDS IN WHICH OVER 200,000 PUERTO RICANS REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE.
5) THIRTY FIVE PER CENT OF PUERTO RICAN WOMEN HAVE BEEN STERILIZED IN A PLOT TO REDUCE PUERTO RICAN REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS (PRESUMABLY AFTER STATEHOOD) AND MORE EASILY ASSIMILATE PUERTO RICO INTO THE US.
6. THE PUERTO RICANS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WERE NOT ALLIED WITH ANY PUERTO RICAN PARTY, SUCH AS THE INDEPENDENCE PARTY (PIP) WITH WHICH THE PRD HAS LONG MAINTAINED FRATERNAL RELATIONS. THEY WERE ALSO CAREFUL NOT TO ANGER EITHER THE GODP OR THE PRD. THEY THANKED THE GOVERNMENT FOR LIFTINGNBHE IMPEDIMENTS TO THEIR ENTRY IN THE COUNTRY, AND WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE PRD'S
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PERFORMANCE, RAFAEL MIRANDA SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO THE DOMINICANS TO JUDGE THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. THE PUERTO RICANS ALSO EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE THREE DOMINICAN ALLEGED "POLITICAL PRISONERS" IN A PUERTO RICAN PRISON, VICTOR MORALES, JOSE CONFESION TAVARES AND WELLINGTON PETERSON (ON BANK ROBBERY CONVICTIONS).
7. COMMENT. THOUGH THE IMPACT OF THE VISIT WAS LESSENED BY THE ABSENCE OF LEBRON, THE PUERTO RICANS, AND FELLOW TRAVELERS PROBABLY FELT THEY LARGELY ACCOMPLISHED THEIR PURPOSE LOTS OF PUBLICITY. THE ABSENCE OF PRD PARTICIPATION CAN BE EXPLAINED BY THE VISITORS NON AFFILIATION WITH THE PIP AND THE PRD'S UNWILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED WITH A GROUP ADVOCATING TERROR TACTICS. THE FACT THAT THE PRD DID FACILITATE THE ENTRY OF THE PUERTO RICANS SPRINGS FROM THE PARTY'S VEHEMENT INSISTENCE ON FULL OBSERVANCE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, INCLULING FREEDOM OF TRAVEL AND OF EXPRESSION. THE DIMINISHED PUBLIC EXPOSURE GIVEN THE

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LATTER PART OF THE VISIT DOUBTLESS WAS IN PART DUE TO THE CGT'S HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUGAR WORKERS' CAUSE, WHICH ITSELF NOT ONLY TOOK OVER THE HEADLINES BUT ABSORBED THE ENERGY OF THE PUERTO RICANS' PRINCIPAL HOST.

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